

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A mineral composition, characterized in that the mineral composition comprises 100 parts by weight of a metal salt having a solubility product in water at 25°C of  $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$  or less and 0.5 to 50 parts by weight of an emulsifier having an HLB of 6 to 10, wherein the metal salt comprises fine particles having an average particle size of 0.05 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
2. (Original) The mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier is a diglycerol fatty acid ester.
3. (Original) The mineral composition according to claim 2, wherein the diglycerol fatty acid ester comprises 50% by weight or more of the monoesters.
4. (Original) The mineral composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the metal salt is at least one member selected from metal salts comprising calcium, magnesium, iron or zinc.
5. (Currently Amended) A food or beverage comprising the mineral composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.